

II. REMARKS

A. Introduction

In this Response claims 1-12 are noted as pending, claim 7-12 are allowed and claims 1-6 are rejected based on prior art.

In summary of this Response, claim 2 is canceled, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 are amended, and remarks are provided.

B. Rejection of Claims 1-6 Under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

These claims have) been rejected as being anticipated or rendered obvious by Japanese Reference No. 10-160324.

In response thereto, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as recited by claims 1 and 3-6, was neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art for the following reasons.

This reference appears to show a pipe (5a, 9) extending between an evaporator (8) and a compressor (5), and a capillary tube (7) extending between the evaporator (8) and the condenser (6). At least portion (9) of the tube is surrounded by a "heat insulation case".

Differences between this reference's structure and the module of the present invention recited by independent claim 1 and dependent claim 3 include the following: (1) only an exposed part extends to the cooling compartment and the evaporator; and (2) the module (including a foam body, at least an embedded portion of the suction tube and a cover) is removably attached to the refrigerator, respectively.

In contrast, the reference's tube (9, 5a) appears to be both located in a machine part and extend to the cooling compartment of the refrigerator and the evaporator. Also, it appears that the tube (9, 5a) can be disconnected to allow the removal of a clogged capillary tube (7), but the heat insulation case does not appear to be removable with the tube (9, 5a), and there does not appear to be any cover removable with the tube (9, 5a) and capillary tube (7).

The claims have been amended herein to distinguish over this reference. As claims 4-6 include other limitations, these dependent claims should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3-12 are now in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge same to

our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Response, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference with the Examiner to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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5/31/05

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2

In Figure reference numeral "101b" is corrected to --101c--.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s) and Annotated Sheet(s) Showing Change(s)

